Harassment of Indian migrants

66. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the harassment of Indian migrants in different countries; and

(b) whether Government has already signed bilateral settlement with various countries for the safety and protection of Indian migrants?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Government have received some reports of harassment of Indian migrants in some countries.

(b) Protecting emigrants against malpractices and exploitation requires bilateral cooperation. India had signed Labour agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s. The Ministry, after its creation in 2004, made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the major receiving Countries for ensuring protection and welfare of our emigrants. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with United Arab of Emirates (UAE) in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April, 2007, with Oman in November, 2008, with Malaysia in January, 2009, and with Bahrain on 17th June, 2009. An Additional Protocol to the existing Labour Agreement between India and Qatar was signed in November, 2007.

Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children

67. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scholarships given during the last three years under Scholarship Scheme for Diaspora Children, State-wise;

(b) whether Government would propose to increase the number of beneficiaries under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and expected fiscal allocation for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The number of scholarships given during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	No. of Scholarships
2006	60
2007	79
2008	66